

Week 3: Martha and Mary of Bethany – Service and Worship

Key Passages

- Luke 10:38–42
- John 11:17–44
- John 12:1–8

Themes

- Balancing service and devotion
- Learning from Jesus
- Faith during difficult circumstances

Passage Summary

These passages show Martha and Mary expressing their faith in different ways. Martha served Jesus, while Mary sat at His feet to learn from Him. Jesus taught that spending time with Him should be our first priority. When Lazarus died, both sisters turned to Jesus in faith, and He raised their brother from the dead. Later, Mary anointed Jesus with perfume, showing her love and worship.

Together, these passages remind us that serving God and spending time with Him are both important, especially during difficult seasons.

Discussion Questions

1. What lesson does Jesus teach Martha about priorities?
2. How do Martha and Mary express their faith differently?
3. What can we learn from their response to Lazarus' death?
4. Why is spending time with Jesus important before serving Him?
5. What does Mary's act of worship teach us?
6. Which sister do you relate to most, and why?
7. How can you better balance serving God with spending time in His presence?
8. How does Jesus bring hope during difficult times?

Application

Evaluate how you balance activity for God with time spent with God.

Ask yourself:

- Am I making time to be with Jesus each day?
- Do I trust Him during difficult seasons?
- How can I grow in both service and worship this week?

Key Takeaway: Martha and Mary remind us that while serving God is important, our relationship with Jesus should always come first. Time spent with Him strengthens our faith and equips us to serve others well.